



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/621,946	07/24/2000	Venkatachari Dilip	CE1-001US	5253

29150 7590 06/16/2003

LEE & HAYES, PLLC  
421 W. RIVERSIDE AVE, STE 500  
SPOKANE, WA 99201

EXAMINER

SUBRAMANIAN, NARAYANSWAMY

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3624

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/621,946

Applicant(s)

DILIP ET AL.

Examiner

Narayanswamy Subramanian

Art Unit

3624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 July 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

*Election/Restrictions*

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1-10, drawn to a method comprising analyzing a plurality of asset accounts having a common account holder, identifying an attribute associated with each of the plurality of asset accounts and determining whether an adjustment of assets among the plurality of asset accounts would benefit the account holder, classified in class 705, subclass 36.

II. Claims 11-22, drawn to a method comprising analyzing a plurality of debt accounts having a common account holder, with each of the plurality of debt identifying an attribute associated accounts and determining whether an adjustment of debts among the plurality of debt accounts would benefit the account holder, classified in class 705, subclass 36.

III. Claims 23-31, drawn to a method comprising analyzing a plurality of debt accounts and asset accounts having a common account holder, identifying an attribute associated with each of the plurality of debt accounts and asset accounts and determining whether an adjustment of funds among the plurality of debt accounts and asset accounts would benefit the account holder, classified in class 705, subclass 36.

IV. Claims 32-39, drawn to a method comprising analyzing a plurality of financial accounts having a common account holder, wherein at least two of the plurality of financial accounts are associated with different financial institutions and determining whether an adjustment of funds among the plurality of financial accounts would benefit the account holder, classified in class 705, subclass 36.

V. Claims 40-45, drawn to one or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or

Art Unit: 3624

more processors to analyze a plurality of accounts having a common account holder, identify an attribute associated with each of the plurality of accounts and determine whether an adjustment of funds among the plurality of accounts would benefit the account holder, classified in class 705, subclass 36.

VI. Claims 46-51, drawn to an apparatus comprising a financial management system to analyze a plurality of accounts having a common account holder and to identify an attribute associated with each of the plurality of accounts, the financial management system being configured to determine whether an adjustment of funds among the plurality of accounts would benefit the account holder, classified in class 705, subclass 36.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions I and II are related as sub combinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The sub combinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention I relates to a method comprising analyzing a plurality of asset accounts having a common account holder, identifying an attribute associated with each of the plurality of asset accounts and determining whether an adjustment of assets among the plurality of asset accounts would benefit the account holder, whereas invention II relates to a method comprising analyzing a plurality of debt accounts having a common account holder, with each of the plurality of debt identifying an attribute associated accounts and determining whether an adjustment of debts among the plurality of debt accounts would benefit the account holder. See MPEP § 806.05(d). Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Inventions III and I are related as sub combinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The sub combinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention I relates to a method comprising analyzing a plurality of asset accounts having a common account holder, identifying an attribute associated with each of the plurality of asset accounts and determining whether an adjustment of assets among the plurality of asset accounts would benefit the account holder, whereas invention III relates to a method comprising analyzing a plurality of debt accounts and asset accounts having a common account holder, identifying an attribute associated with each of the plurality of debt accounts and asset accounts and determining whether an adjustment of funds among the plurality of debt accounts and asset accounts would benefit the account holder. See MPEP § 806.05(d). Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group III, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Inventions IV and I are related as sub combinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The sub combinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention I relates to a method comprising analyzing a plurality of asset accounts having a common account holder, identifying an attribute associated with each of the plurality of asset accounts and determining whether an adjustment of assets among the plurality of asset accounts would benefit the account holder, whereas invention IV relates to a method comprising analyzing a plurality of financial accounts having a common account holder, wherein at least two of the plurality of financial accounts are associated with different financial institutions and determining whether an adjustment of funds among the plurality of financial accounts would benefit the account holder. See MPEP § 806.05(d). Because

Art Unit: 3624

these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group IV, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Similarly other pairing of inventions stated above are related as sub combinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. These inventions are distinct from each other as can be evident from the definition of the groups described above. Also they require separate searches and hence restriction of these inventions for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

3. A telephone call was made to Mr. Steven R. Sponseller on May 20, 2003 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

4. Applicants are advised that reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Narayanswamy Subramanian whose telephone number is (703) 305-4878. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Thursday from 8:30 AM to 7:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached at (703) 308-1065. The fax number for Formal or Official faxes and Draft or Informal faxes to Technology Center 3600 or this Art Unit is (703) 305-7687. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

N. Subramanian  
May 27, 2003

Richard Weisberger  
Primary Examiner



**HANI M. KAZIMI**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**